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3 November 1969

MEMORANDUM

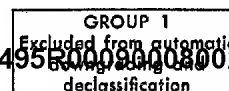
SUBJECT: DDI Comments on Draft Memorandum for the President entitled "A Plan of Action on the Heroin Problem."

I. FRANCE

Diplomatic Background

1. In late August French Minister of Interior Marcellin approached Ambassador Shriver, and expressed his pleasure at the manner in which cooperation was developing between the US narcotics authorities and French officials. Ambassador Shriver reported that over the previous three months coordination between the US and the French on this matter had reached "an all-time high." In early October, Shriver called on Marcellin once again to convey to him US concerns about the illegal production of heroin in France. The French Minister appeared sceptical when told that 80% of all heroin reaching the US comes from France, but also said that he understood and wanted to be responsive to President Nixon's concern over this problem, that President Pompidou was also concerned about the problem, and that he and his colleagues would cooperate fully and openly with the US in this matter.

2. In mid October, just about two weeks after the Shriver-Marcellin talks, a story broke in the French press that was completely unexpected by French officials. Widespread coverage was given an AP report that Assistant Attorney General Kleindienst had made off-the-record comments saying: "The Nixon Administration is widening the war on narcotics by putting pressure on France to clamp down on clandestine drug factories," and that "diplomatic relations may be altered considerably if France does not respond." French narcotics authorities said they were both

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"astounded" and "discouraged" that such a statement should be made at precisely a moment when cooperation was close between the US and France.

3. After expressing their private concern, the French Central Narcotics Bureau conferred with the Minister of Interior, and then issued a public response which charged that the "idea that France remains the keystone for the shipment of heroin to the US is out of date." It went on to defend the efforts of the French police in dealing with the flow of narcotics. US narcotics officials (BNDD) noted that after the statement, the relations with the French service appeared to be returning to "normal," i.e. poor.

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IV. INTELLIGENCE

21. Concur that improvement in this area probably is warranted. DDI components will participate in preparing the report proposed for 30 November.

DATE: 3 November

to: Messrs. Smith/~~Proctor/Hepworth/Parsons~~

FROM: Dickk

SUBJECT: Heroin

REMARKS:

Under the direction of []
OCI has prepared a briefing paper for the Director on the Treasury Department's initial plan of action against the heroin problem. OCI points out that the crash actions to enlist the cooperation of France and Turkey are likely to have negative effects since neither country will welcome the implication that they have been lax in their control efforts and because some of the actions impinge on their national sovereignty. The Treasury paper also points out that intelligence on the heroin problem may not be adequately coordinated among US agencies; the briefing paper acknowledges this and notes that we will cooperate in preparing a report on this aspect, which is due out 30 November.

This paper was turned over to []
[] in CI Staff on Saturday. The idea of pre-emptive buying has been squashed but not killed.

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